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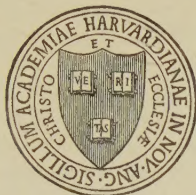
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In spite of the dry autumn, the absence of snow during the winter, and the occasional extremely cold days plants have suffered less in the Arboretum probably than in any previous winter. The Conifers and Taxads are entirely uninjured; even the beautiful prostrate coast Juniper of Japan (*Juniperus conferta*) where it is common as far north as Hokkaido is uninjured, although in previous years it has always been half killed in the Arboretum. The broad-leaved Rhododendrons, except for an occasional yellow leaf, are in perfect condition with the exception of the flowers of the hybrid *Rhododendron praecox* (*R. ciliatum* x *dahuricum*) which were killed by the frost of the 19th of April, as happens five years out of six. It has been an extraordinarily early spring. The Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) began to flower in February. On the 1st of March *Erica carnea*, which is still in bloom, began to flower; on the 20th of March a newly introduced Honeysuckle from Korea, *Lonicera prae-florens*, was in bloom as was the European *Cornus mas*, the so-called Cornelian Cherry, and its eastern Asiatic representative, *Cornus officinalis*. *Cornus mas*, which has grown in European gardens for at least three centuries, is still rarely seen in those of the United States, although it was first brought to America more than a hundred years ago. The Cornelian Cherry is especially valuable in this climate for the small bright yellow flowers which are arranged in many-flowered clusters and remain in good condition for three or four weeks, are never injured by frost. It is a broad, shapely shrub or sometimes a small tree with bright green leaves, and scarlet or rarely yellow fruit which ripens late in summer and is cherry-like in appearance. The Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) and its form with yellow

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flowers (var. *pallidiflorum*) were also open this year as early as the 20th of March when many species of Alder, Willow, Poplar and Hazel were blooming. The Chinese Cherry, *Prunus Davidiana*, and its white-flowered variety were in full bloom before the end of March.

Forsythias, which have never bloomed more profusely in the Arboretum and generally in the neighborhood of Boston, are still in good condition and are most effective when planted in a large crowded mass on a sloping hillside, as they have been in the Arboretum just where the Meadow Road joins the Bussey Hill Road. The recently introduced *Forsythia ovata* discovered in 1918 by Wilson on the Diamond Mountains in northern Korea was in flower as early as March 26th or nearly two weeks earlier than the other Forsythias. It is a large shrub with light yellow branches, broad, long-pointed, coarsely toothed leaves from four to five inches in length and from three to four inches in width, and clear primrose colored flowers rather smaller than those of *F. Fortunei* or of any of the forms of *F. intermedia*. This Korean Forsythia promises to be an extremely valuable introduction as it will be possible to grow it much further north than the other species of the genus, and in this climate the flower-buds will probably never be injured as they often are on other species, especially on the hybrids of *F. intermedia* of which several forms are in the collection. They were obtained by crossing the flowers of *F. suspensa* var. *Fortunei* with those of *F. viridissima* which is the most tender and southern species. As a flowering plant one of these hybrids called *spectabilis*, which originated in Germany, is the handsomest of all the Forsythias, but in severe winters many of the flower-buds are killed. Other handsome hybrids are var. *primulina* with primrose colored flowers and var. *pallida* with straw-colored flowers; the former appeared spontaneously in the Arboretum a few years ago. In the crowded mass of Forsythias which makes the great show in the Arboretum it is hard to distinguish the species and hybrids, but all of them with the exception of *F. ovata* can be studied in the Shrub Collection as individual plants.

Pyrus ussuriensis has been in bloom since April 17th. This tree is a native of Korea, north China and northern Japan, growing further north probably than any other Pear-tree, and sometimes forming forests of considerable extent. It is, too, the largest of all Pear-trees for Wilson photographed in 1918 a tree growing near Shinan in the province of Nogen, Korea, sixty feet tall with a girth of trunk of fourteen feet and a head of branches seventy-five feet across. The small fruit varies in size and shape, and, judging by American standards, has little value. It is believed that the hardiness of this tree may make it valuable as a stock on which to grow some of the European garden pears, and experiments with it as stock are being made in Dakota. There are several plants now in bloom in the Arboretum but the most easily seen are those on the southern slope of Bussey Hill where they are growing in the collection of Chinese pear-trees.

Prinsepia sinensis is again covered with clusters of bright yellow flowers which spring from the axils of the half grown leaves. This *Prinsepia* is a tall broad shrub with long gracefully ascending and spread-

ing branches and stems armed with many spines. This member of the Rose Family is perfectly hardy and the handsomest shrub Manchuria has yet contributed to western gardens. The two specimens in the Arboretum were sent here from St. Petersburg in 1903 and 1906, and have been found difficult to propagate. In recent years fortunately one of the plants has produced a few seeds, and as these have germinated there is reason to hope that if the Arboretum plants become more fruitful this shrub may become a common ornament in northern gardens. It has much to recommend it as a hedge plant. The species from northern China can be seen to most advantage in the Shrub Collection. *Prinsepia uniflora* from western China is a spiny shrub with small white flowers, and though it has little beauty its value for forming impenetrable hedges may prove considerable.

Corylopsis Gotoana bloomed this year on the 3rd of April and has never before been so full of flowers which, however, are now beginning to fall. *Corylopsis* is an Asiatic genus of the Witch Hazel Family with fragrant yellow flowers in long drooping clusters and leaves which have a general resemblance to those of the Witch Hazel. *C. Gotoana* was introduced into the Arboretum from central Japan and is the largest and handsomest species, growing from five to six feet tall in this climate, and can be considered one of the handsomest of the early spring flowering shrubs. In the Arboretum it can best be seen on the Centre Street Path. The other Japanese species, *C. pauciflora* and *C. spicata*, are also hardy but in very severe winters the flower-buds are often injured, and they are neither of them as desirable garden plants in this climate as *C. Gotoana*. There are several Chinese species in the Arboretum but their flower-buds are usually killed here.

Rhododendron mucronulatum, a native of northern China, which has been growing in the Arboretum for more than forty years, has been covered with fragrant rose-colored flowers this year since the 1st of April and as usual has proved one of the most beautiful and satisfactory of the early flowering shrubs introduced by the Arboretum. It is not easy to explain why this plant, which has so much to recommend it and is so easily propagated, has remained so uncommon in American gardens. The variety *ciliata* discovered by Wilson in Korea is flowering for the first time and promises to be as hardy as the type and even a handsomer plant as the flowers are darker colored. The plants, however, are too young to form any proper estimate of their garden value. They are planted with the type on the lower side of Azalea Path.

Asiatic Cherries. When this copy of the Bulletin reaches its readers in eastern Massachusetts the most interesting display of flowers will be made by some of the Cherry-trees of eastern Asia and by early flowering Apricots and Plum-trees. As in previous years, the earliest of these trees to flower is *Prunus concinna*, a native of the mountains of China where it was discovered by Wilson. It is a small tree less than three feet high; the flowers, which are white with a bright red calyx, are less beautiful than those of several of the other Asiatic

Cherry-trees, but they are produced in the greatest profusion and are not injured by spring frosts, and as small plants flower so freely it well deserves a place in a collection of spring flowering trees and shrubs. It is best seen in the Arboretum in the border of Chinese plants on the southern slope of Bussey Hill. The Japanese *Prunus incisa* is now in bloom on the right-hand side of the Forest Hills Road. It is a shrub or small tree with white or rarely pale rose-colored flowers which appear before the deeply lobed leaves unfold; the petals fall at the end of a few days after the buds open, but the calyx which gradually turns red remains on the fruit for two or three weeks and is decidedly showy. Although *P. incisa* is a common plant in Japan on the Hakone Mountains and on Fuji-san, it is extremely rare in American gardens.

The Spring Cherry of the Japanese (*Prunus subhirtella*), the most delightful and floriferous, travellers say, of all Japanese Cherries, is again thickly covered with flowers and has not before been more beautiful. This is a large shrub which is not known as a wild plant in Japan. Although somewhat cultivated in the gardens of western Japan, it is uncommon in those of Tokyo, and has failed to attract generally the attention of visitors to the Flowery Kingdom. The rather small drooping flowers are pink when they first open but gradually turn white, and those of no other Cherry-tree in the collection remain in good condition for so many days. This plant is extremely rare in American and European gardens. It can, however, be increased by grafting, and soft wood cuttings in the hands of a skilful propagator can be made to grow. Seeds, which the Arboretum plants produce in great quantities, do not reproduce the parent plant, however, and the seedlings usually grow into the tall slender trees which botanists know as *Prunus subhirtella* var. *ascendens*, which is a common tree in the forests of central Hondo and is really the type of the species. This tree has generally been overlooked or neglected as a garden plant, but is now flowering in the Arboretum. Much better known is the form of *P. subhirtella* (var. *pendula*), which was long a favorite garden plant in Japan and was sent many years ago to Europe and then to the United States. This beautiful plant, which is perfectly hardy in Massachusetts, has often grown badly here and died long before its time because European Cherries have been used as stock for multiplying. The proper stocks for the Weeping Cherry are the seedling plants of *Prunus subhirtella* or its varieties. Seeds of the pendulous form sometimes produce plants with pendulous branches and such plants are occasionally found among the seedlings of *Prunus subhirtella*.

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